We claim:

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1. A recording unit for recording an event, comprising:

a data acquisition device for obtaining recording data representing the content of the event;

a data storage device for storing data, including recording data;

a control interface device for enabling a recorder to control operation of the recording unit, the control interface device further comprising marking means for enabling the recorder to specify a non-contemporaneous mark; and

a system controller that causes, in response to the specification of a non-contemporaneous mark by the recorder, the data storage device to store marking data associating the non-contemporaneous mark with recording data obtained at a marked time different from the marking time at which the non-contemporaneous mark was specified by the recorder.

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2. A recording unit as in Claim 1, wherein the marking means is adapted to enable specification of a retrospective mark that is associated with recording data obtained at a marked time prior to the marking time at which the retrospective mark was specified by the recorder.

3. A recording unit as in Claim 1, wherein the marking means is adapted to enable specification of a predictive mark that is associated with recording data obtained at a marked time subsequent to the marking time at which the predictive mark was specified by the recorder.

4. A recording unit as in Claim 1, wherein the marking data defines the marking time and a duration of time, the marked time being the time different from the marking time by the amount of the duration of time.

5. A recording unit as in Claim 1, wherein the marking data defines the marked time directly.

6. A recording unit as in Claim 1, wherein the marking data further defines a confidence level that represents the certainty of the recorder that the marked recording data is the recording data that the recorder desires to mark.

7. A recording unit as in Claim 6, wherein the value of the confidence level defines a range of time relative to the marked time.

8. A recording unit as in Claim 1, wherein the marking data further defines a range of time relative to the marked time.

9. A recording unit as in Claim 1, wherein the marking means is adapted to enable specification of multiple types of non-contemporaneous marks, each type of mark having a different meaning.

10. A recording unit as in Claim 1, wherein the marking means further comprises:

means for indicating that a voice mark is to be imminently specified; and

means for identifying a voice mark, the means for identifying operable in response to an indication that a voice mark is to be imminently specified.

11. A recording unit as in Claim 1, wherein the recording unit is portable.

12. A recording unit as in Claim 11, further comprising means for mounting one or more components of the recording unit on the body of the recorder.

13. A recording unit as in Claim 1, wherein the data acquisition device further comprises a visual data acquisition device.

14. A recording unit as in Claim 13, wherein the data acquisition device further comprises an audio data acquisition device.

15. A portable recording unit for recording an event, comprising:

a data acquisition device for obtaining recording data representing the content of the event;

a data storage device for storing data, including recording data;

a control interface device for enabling a recorder to control operation of the recording unit, the control interface device further comprising marking means for enabling the recorder to specify multiple types of marks;

a system controller that causes, in response to the specification of a mark by the recorder, the data storage device to store marking data associating the specified mark with particular recording data; and

means for mounting one or more components of the recording unit on the body of the recorder.

16. A portable recording unit as in Claim 15, wherein the multiple types of marks include one or more marks that are associated with recording data obtained at a time other than the time at which the mark is specified.

17. A portable recording unit as in Claim 15, wherein the multiple types of marks include one or more marks indicating a level of importance or interest of the content which the marked recording data represents.

18. A portable recording unit as in Claim 15, wherein the multiple types of marks include one or more marks indicating a characteristic of the content which the marked recording data represents.

19. A portable recording unit as in Claim 15, wherein the multiple types of marks include one or more marks indicating the beginning or end of activity of interest.

20. A portable recording unit as in Claim 15, wherein the multiple types of marks include one or more marks indicating the recording conditions.

21. A portable recording unit as in Claim 15, wherein the multiple types of marks include one or more marks indicating the recorder's state of mind.

22. A portable recording unit as in Claim 15, wherein the multiple types of marks include one or more privacy marks.

23. A portable recording unit as in Claim 22, wherein the one or more privacy marks includes a mark that indicates that the marked part of the recording is to be erased.

24. A portable recording unit as in Claim 15, wherein the multiple types of marks include one or more marks indicating different recording units.

25. A portable recording unit as in Claim 15, wherein the multiple types of marks include one or more marks identifying the person making the mark.

26. A portable recording unit as in Claim 15, wherein the multiple types of marks include one or more marks identifying a person appearing in the part of the recording represented by the recording data associated with the mark.

27. A portable recording unit as in Claim 15, further comprising means for enabling the recorder to specify the meaning of one or more of the multiple types of marks.

28. A portable recording unit as in Claim 15, further comprising means for changing the meaning of one or more marks.

29. A portable recording unit as in Claim 28, wherein the means for changing the meaning of one or more marks further comprises:

means for analyzing the recording data; and

means for changing the meaning of a mark based on the analysis of the recording data.

30. A portable recording unit as in Claim 28, wherein:

the portable recording unit further comprises means for obtaining data other than recording data; and

the means for changing the meaning of one or more marks further comprises means for changing the meaning of a mark based on the data other than the recording data.

31. A portable recording unit as in Claim 15, further comprising one or more marking tokens for enabling a person to specify a corresponding type of mark, each marking token adapted to enable physical separation of the marking token from the control interface device.

32. A portable recording unit as in Claim 15, wherein the marking means further comprises:

means for indicating that a voice mark is to be imminently specified; and

means for identifying a voice mark, the means for identifying operable in response to an indication that a voice mark is to be imminently specified.

33. A portable recording unit as in Claim 15, wherein the data acquisition device further comprises a visual data acquisition device.

34. A portable recording unit as in Claim 33, wherein the data acquisition device further comprises an audio data acquisition device.

35. A portable recording unit as in Claim 15, wherein the system controller causes, in response to the specification of a mark by the recorder, operation of the recording unit in a predetermined manner in accordance with the type of the mark.

36. A recording unit for recording an event, comprising:

a data acquisition device for obtaining recording data representing the content of the event;

a data storage device for storing data, including recording data;

a control interface device for enabling a recorder to control operation of the recording unit, the control interface device further comprising marking means for enabling the recorder to specify a mark; and

a system controller that causes, in response to the specification of a mark by the recorder, the data storage device to store marking data associating the specified mark with particular recording data, and operation of the recording unit in a predetermined manner in accordance with the type of the mark.

37. A recording unit as in Claim 36, wherein:

at least one mark indicates a level of importance or interest of the content which the marked recording data represents; and

the system controller causes recording data corresponding to the at least one mark to be compressed in accordance with the level of importance or interest represented by the mark.

38. A recording unit as in Claim 37, wherein the system controller causes compression of recording data to be reduced after a predetermined amount of time.

39. A recording unit for recording an event, comprising:

a data acquisition device for obtaining recording data representing the content of the event;

a data storage device for storing data, including recording data;

a control interface device for enabling a recorder to control operation of the recording unit;

means for producing a mark, wherein the means for producing a mark further comprises means for producing a mark and/or supplementing or modifying an existing mark based on the value of, or an analysis of, data acquired by the recording unit; and

a system controller that causes, in response to the specification of a mark by the recorder, the data storage device to store marking data associating each mark with particular recording data.

40. A recording unit as in Claim 39, wherein the means for producing a mark and/or supplementing or modifying an existing mark produces, supplements or modifies based on the value of, or an analysis of, the recording data.

41. A recording unit as in Claim 39, wherein:

the recording unit further comprises means for acquiring data other than recording data; and

the means for producing a mark and/or supplementing or modifying an existing mark produces, supplements or modifies based on the value of, or an analysis of, the data other than recording data.

42. A recording unit as in Claim 41, wherein:

the means for acquiring data other than recording data further comprises a physiological monitoring device; and

the means for producing a mark and/or supplementing or modifying an existing mark produces, supplements or modifies based on the value of, or an analysis of, physiological monitoring data.

43. A recording unit as in Claim 41, wherein:

the means for acquiring data other than recording data further comprises a position sensing device; and

the means for producing a mark and/or supplementing or modifying an existing mark produces, supplements or modifies based on the value of, or an analysis of, position data.

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44. A recording unit as in Claim 39, wherein the means for producing a mark and/or supplementing or modifying an existing mark produces, supplements or modifies based on the proximity of the marking time to the marked time.

45. For use in a recording unit being used by a recorder to record an event, a method for non-contemporaneously marking recording data obtained by the recording unit, comprising the steps of:

identifying the specification of a non-contemporaneous mark; and

in response to an identification of the specification of a non-contemporaneous mark, storing marking data associating the non-contemporaneous mark with recording data obtained at a marked time different from the marking time at which the non-contemporaneous mark was specified.

46. A method as in Claim 45, wherein:

the step of identifying further comprises identifying the specification of a retrospective mark; and

the step of storing further comprises storing marking data associating the retrospective mark with recording data obtained at a marked time prior to the marking time at which the non-contemporaneous mark was specified.

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47. A method as in Claim 45, wherein:

the step of identifying further comprises identifying the specification of a predictive mark; and

the step of storing further comprises storing marking data associating the predictive mark with recording data obtained at a marked time subsequent to the marking time at which the non-contemporaneous mark was specified.

48. A method as in Claim 45, wherein the marking data defines the marking time and a duration of time, the marked time being the time different from the marking time by the amount of the duration of time.

49. A method as in Claim 45, wherein the marking data defines the marked time directly.

50. A method as in Claim 45, wherein the marking data further defines a confidence level that represents the certainty of the recorder that the marked recording data is the recording data that the recorder desires to mark.

51. A method as in Claim 50, wherein the value of the confidence level defines a range of time relative to the marked time.

52. A method as in Claim 45, wherein the marking data further defines a range of time relative to the marked time.

53. A method as in Claim 45, wherein the step of identifying further comprises:

identifying an indication that a voice mark is to be imminently specified; and

identifying a voice mark in response to an indication that a voice mark is to be imminently specified.